



News Release

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Media Contact:
Whitney Johnson
Health Educator

(o) 801-538-6829 (m) 559-314-4238

Former Cancer Patient, Comedian to Headline Survivor Day *Utahns Touched by Cancer Invited to Attend Free Conference*

(Salt Lake City, UT) – Cancer is not a laughing matter, but laughter can be just what the doctor ordered for patients and their families. Thousands of Utahns are diagnosed with cancer every year and coping with the disease presents emotional, physical, and financial challenges.

The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and the Utah Cancer Action Network (UCAN) invite all Utahns touched by cancer to a free, one-day conference titled *Utah Cancer Survivorship Day: Thriving and Celebrating Life*.

Scott Burton, a stand-up comic, juggler and author of “A Life in Balance,” will be the keynote speaker. Burton has worked with Jay Leno and Louie Anderson and sold a script to prime time television. Having battled cancer, he presents his own powerful and inspiring story about learning to laugh and love life with and without cancer.

“In assessing all the ways I could’ve responded to my diagnosis, surgeries and chemo, laughter was the only one that made sense,” says Burton. “The magic of laughter is that when you laugh, if only for that moment, you love your life.”

Survivors, families, and caregivers are invited to attend Survivor Day August 23, 2008, from 8:30-3:00 at the Salt Lake Community College Miller Campus at 9750 South 300 West in Sandy, Utah.

The conference will address common issues that cancer survivors and those close to them may experience. “Expert presenters will discuss a wide range of topics from pain management to debt counseling and stress relief,” said Richard Starley, co-chair of the UCAN Quality of Life Workgroup. “Survivors and their families will find answers to their hard-to-ask questions and get help navigating the health care system.”

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Page 2 of 2 – Former Cancer Patient, Comedian to Headline Survivor Day

The conference is unique in that it offers Spanish translation services and free on-site child care for attendees. Lunch is also provided at no cost.

The Survivorship conference is co-sponsored by the UDOH Cancer Control Program, Abraxis BioScience, Altius Health Plans, American Cancer Society, ARUP Laboratories, Huntsman Cancer Institute, Lilly Oncology, Rocky Mountain Candlelighters for Childhood Cancer, St. Mark's Hospital, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and Utah Cancer Resource and Education for Women.

For more information or to register call 1-888-222-2542 or visit www.ucan.cc/regsummit.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.